



**MUDDY
SNEAKERS®**

THE JOY OF LEARNING OUTSIDE

**NC General Assembly
Joint Appropriations Committee on Education**



OUR MISSION

To awaken in children a deeply felt connection with the natural world — one that inspires curiosity, stimulates learning, and brings new life to classroom performance.

OUTDOOR SCIENCE EDUCATION

Muddy Sneakers energizes fifth-grade science instruction through repeat, immersive learning experiences on the state's protected lands.



A nonprofit founded in Brevard, NC, we utilize outdoor classrooms to foster a love of inquiry and position students for improved academic performance.

IMPACT OF STATE INVESTMENT

2016-2019

Expansion

We have more than doubled our reach in Western North Carolina, to 25 schools in 11 counties.

Launch

We opened a second field office in the Piedmont in 2017, now serving 18 schools across 6 counties.

Hub-and-spoke strategy

Our new satellite programming model allows us to serve underserved counties such as Cherokee and Robeson.

Coastal planning

We are engaged in programming and development outreach in preparation for a third field office in New Bern.

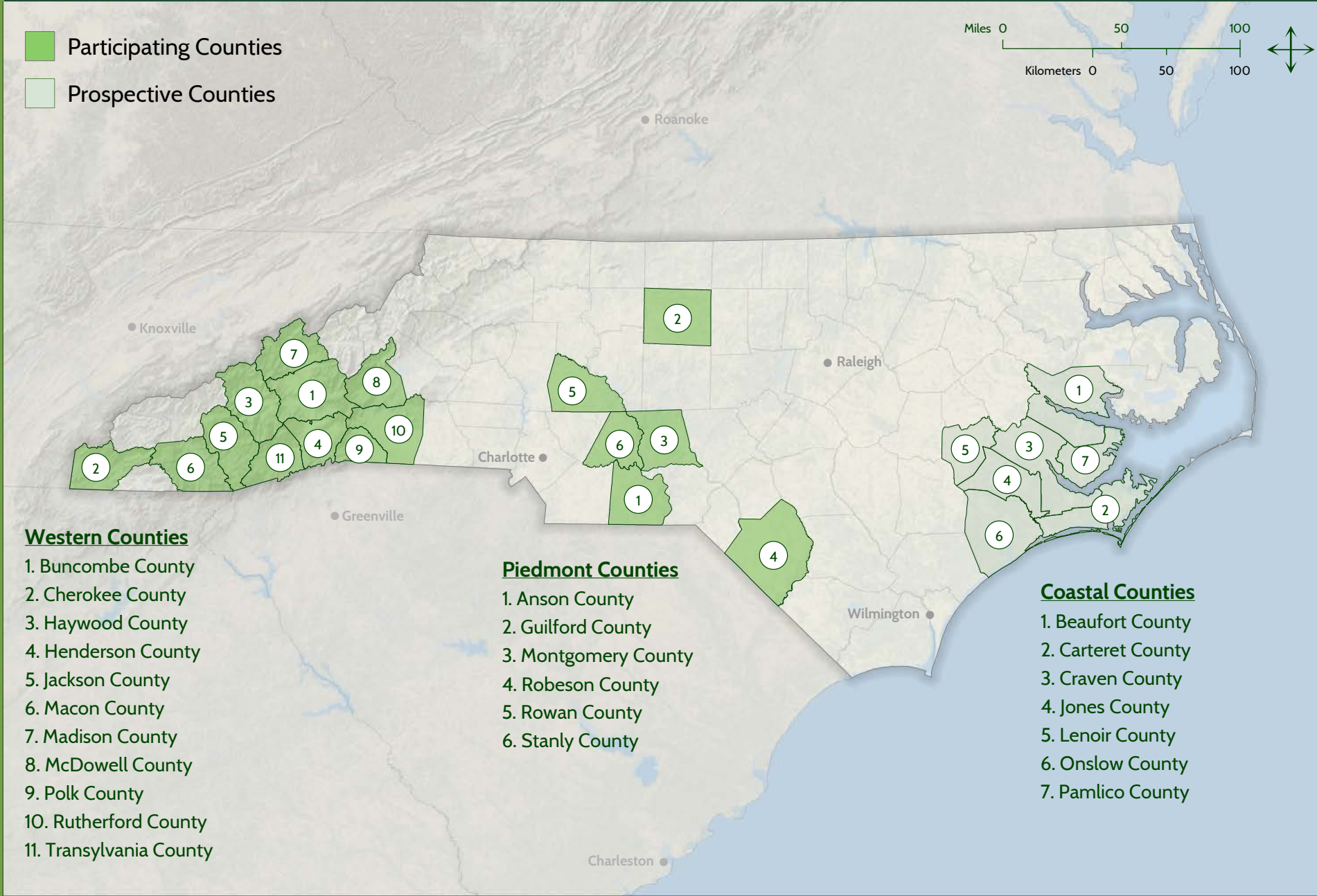
OPPORTUNITIES WITH CONTINUED STATE SUPPORT

With continued annual investment of \$500,000 or greater:

- Coastal expansion poised to launch in fall 2019
 - New field office in New Bern
 - Initial seven-county service area
- Deeper STEM integration in partnership with state-supported collaboratives such as STEM East
- Greater investment in direct school support including teacher training, reaching additional grades, and improving EOG preparation
- Under the hub-and-spoke model, seek out additional field office locations to serve more students statewide
- Further develop research partnerships with NC State, UNC, and regional universities

SERVING STUDENTS STATEWIDE

- Participating Counties
- Prospective Counties



Western Counties

1. Buncombe County
2. Cherokee County
3. Haywood County
4. Henderson County
5. Jackson County
6. Macon County
7. Madison County
8. McDowell County
9. Polk County
10. Rutherford County
11. Transylvania County

Piedmont Counties

1. Anson County
2. Guilford County
3. Montgomery County
4. Robeson County
5. Rowan County
6. Stanly County

Coastal Counties

1. Beaufort County
2. Carteret County
3. Craven County
4. Jones County
5. Lenoir County
6. Onslow County
7. Pamlico County

STRATEGY FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

- Muddy Sneakers remains committed to statewide growth through a public-private funding model. In the three years of state investment, we have more than doubled our private support:
 - Funds raised prior to state support (FY2016): \$341,600
 - Funds expected to be raised in FY2019: \$741,800
 - Difference = increase of \$400,200
- We have seen an **increase of 37%** in the number of annual gifts in the three years since state investment.
- Muddy Sneakers is receiving strong interest from foundations and corporations, including GlaxoSmithKline, Z. Smith Reynolds, Duke Energy, and Biltmore.

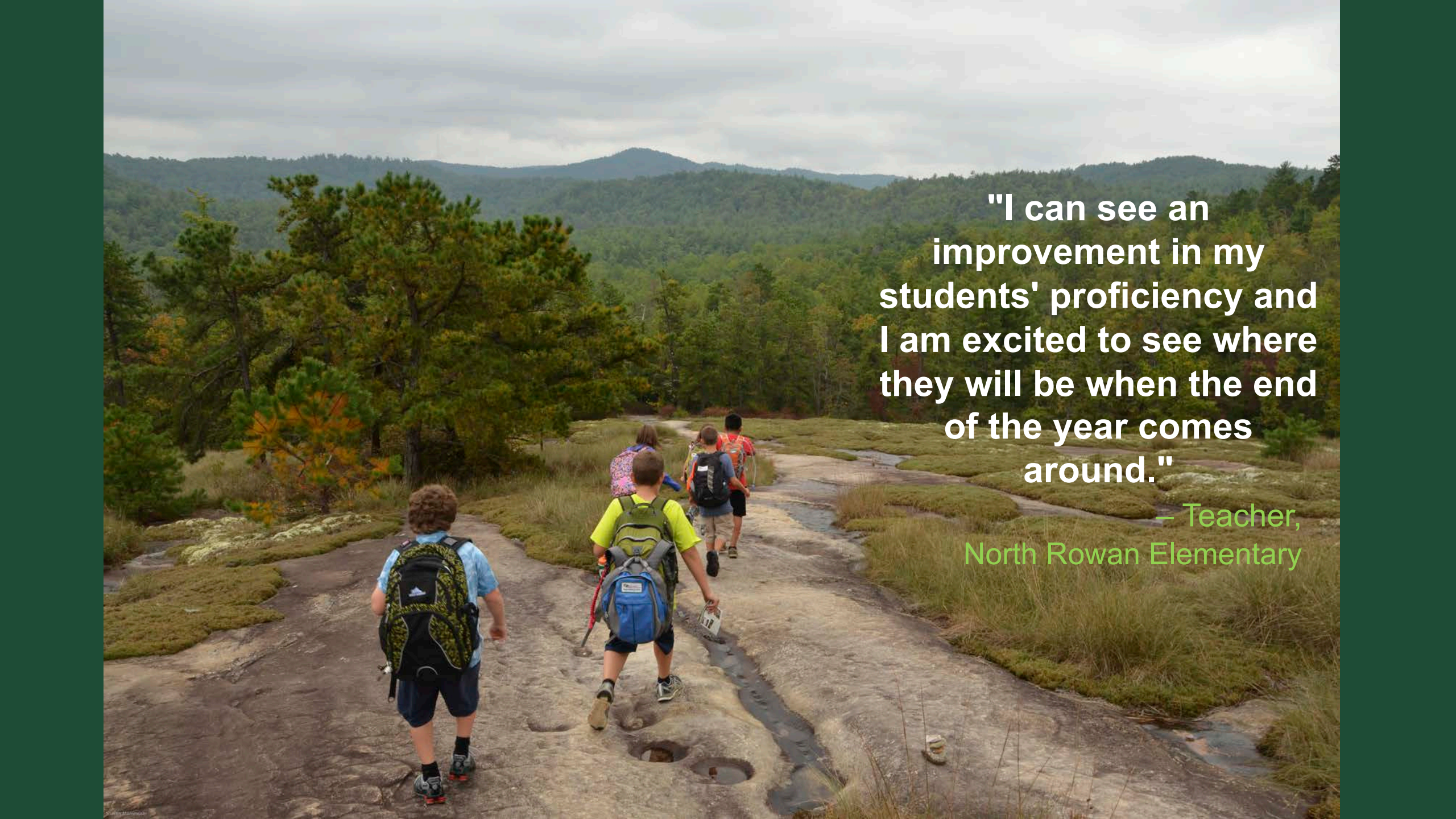
NC STATE RESEARCH FINDINGS



Muddy Sneakers and NC State University have a unique, ongoing partnership. The first two-year study showed that in our program:

- Girls significantly increase their knowledge of and interest in science compared to those who do not participate in Muddy Sneakers.
- Students grow more confident learning outside and increase their connection to nature.
- Students gain a better understanding of the scientific process through experiential inquiry.




A group of children are hiking away from the camera on a wide, flat, light-colored rock trail. They are wearing backpacks and casual hiking clothes. The trail is surrounded by green grass and some small pools of water. In the background, there are dense green forests and rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

**"I can see an
improvement in my
students' proficiency and
I am excited to see where
they will be when the end
of the year comes
around."**

— Teacher,
North Rowan Elementary



A group of about a dozen elementary school students are walking along a dirt path in a dense forest. The path is dappled with sunlight and shadows from the surrounding trees. The students are dressed in casual summer clothing, and some are carrying backpacks. They appear to be on a field trip or a nature walk. The forest is lush with green foliage, and the trees are tall and slender. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and educational.

**"The forest is our
laboratory!"**

— Student,
Hall Fletcher Elementary





"It was awesome to see ALL students engaged in cooperative learning and working together to investigate scientific concepts in nature." — Teacher



**"I would go to school in
the summer if we got to
do Muddy Sneakers!"**

— Student



LEARN MORE

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